THE EIGHTH DAY.

21st March, 1923.

The Assembly met at 11-35 A. M. on Wednesday, the 21st March, 1923.

129. Certain local needs.

Mr. C. Raman Pillai B. A., B. L., (Member, Quilon Taluk) in dwelling on the needs of the taluk, spoke first about the need for a High School for Girls at Quilon. He said that there was of late a wide-spread demand among the local inhabitants for higher education of girls in English and that the only way of satisfying that demand was the opening of an English High School for girls. There was, no doubt, a Mission School for girls at Tuyam ; but it was practically of little use to the non-Christian population of the town, as could be easily seen from the comparatively small number of non-Christian girls attending that institution. In the first place the sole end of the missionary was, the Member said, the spread of his religion, and the [illegible] a means to that end. It might be good to encourage the extent of refusing sanction to the opening of other schools. In should [illegible] place, the school was situated far away from the centre of the Hindu the secothon. Thirdly, the tendency of the Hindu parents and guardians of the populatie was to avoid sending their girls to that Mission institution on account of a locality [illegible] ead feeling of aversion and fear caused by the aggressive policy pursued by wide-spr[illegible]gement thereof. The argument that the establishment of another girls' the mana[illegible]uld affect the Mission school would not hold water, as each would stand school wo[illegible] its own merits. The chances were that the Mission school would con- or fall on spite of a rival, for the reason that it was being fed mainly by Christian tim[illegible] for whom there was hostel accommodation there. Lastly, it might be argued that the opening of such schools should be left to private enterprise. With reference to that argument, the Member said that the people were poor and lacked the power of organisation, and that the Government should, therefore, help them by opening at least one English Middle School for Girls, which might be located temporarily in the Malayali Sabha building. A permanent structure might be put up later on in front of the Putukkulangara Palace, which site was now being utilised by the public as a privy. The Member also took advantage of that occasion to condemn the present system of the education of girls as undermining their social and domestic virtues and said that the remedy lay in providing hostel accommodation to girls.

The next topic of the Member's representation was the desirability of creating a local committee for the amelioration of the agricultural and industrial condition of the people. Though the Departments of Agriculture and Industries were doing their best to make their activities known to the people, the ordinary ryot—in the Quilon taluk at any rate—had not yet been benefited by those activities. That was perhaps due to the inability of the people to follow the improved methods suggested or to the adverse economic conditions under which they lived. Hence it was necessary to organise a local committee for the Quilon taluk, composed of two non-officials from each *pakuthi* and the officers of the Departments of Agriculture, Industries and Co-operation.

The third prayer of the Member was the improvement of the roads and canals of the taluk with a view to promote agriculture, and in that connection pointed reference was made by him to the need for the widening of the lane from the Quilon Residency to the Uliya Kovil backwater and converting it into a cart-road. That lane had been inspected by the Dewan.

The Member next laid stress upon the desirability of repairing and maintaining several tanks and canals, especially the Vatta *kayal*.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Fourthly, the Member referred to the necessity for an industrial school on a small scale for teaching cottage industries, *e. g.*, the preparation of yarn for looms, extraction of fibres, dyeing, etc.

Lastly, he advocated the desirability of securing the services of co-operative agents for finding out local markets for the sale of agricultural and industrial products.

Mr. K. Raman Pillai (Member, Quilon Taluk) represented that, besides the Ayurvedic College in Trivandrum, there were only three Ayurvedic schools throughout the State and that those schools were being conducted by private agencies. There were too many Vernacular Middle Schools in the State, the taluk of Quilon having seven or eight. The Member urged that an Ayurvedic Patasala should be started at Quilon even at the risk of abolishing a vernacular school.

The Member observed that there was a large section of Tamil-speaking people at Quilon and requested that an elementary Tamil school with three classes might be opened for the benefit of the Tamil children.

He dwelt on the necessity of improving the means of communication in the taluk and made special mention of the following roads.

(1) The Tevalli-Ilampallur road should be improved and maintained and a floating bridge provided at the Tevalli ferry. The necessity for that road had been urged at as many as 14 out of the 19 sessions of the Assembly and that at the eighteenth session it was said in reply that out of Rs. 5,000 proposed to be spent for the work Rs. 3,000 had been ear-marked in the budget for 1097. The Member added that, if any amount had actually been spent, he could say that it had not been spent for the satisfactory maintenance of that road.

(2) The road running from the southern side of the Sub-Registry office at Kundara to the landing place at Kanjirakkode should be widened with the necessary protective works to avoid the danger of the deep descent there. As a result of the representations made by the Member at the sixteenth and eighteenth sessions of the Assembly the Dewan had visited the locality and stated that no protective walls were necessary and that it would be enough to widen the descent. The Member had also agreed to the suggestion.

(3) The road running north from the western side of the Kundara Sub-Registry office *via* Kanjirakkode and Perayam and meeting the Kundara-Kallada road was very useful to the public and it was only 1½ miles in length. That road should be improved and converted into a public road under Government maintenance. The Dewan had inspected that road also.

(4) Similarly, the Quilon-Mukattala road should be improved and the same extended from the Kannanallur market to Puyappalli.

(5) A road should be opened from the 2nd furlong, 6th mile, of the Quilon Shencottah road to Puyappalli *via* Pazhangalam and Netumankavu.

(6) A road should be constructed to connect Kallada and Sastamkotta with a junghar at the Katavazha ferry.

The Member then observed that the Taluk Police Station was now located in the town of Quilon, which was outside its jurisdiction, and prayed that it might be removed to a convenient place such as Anjalummud in Perinad or Kundara. He also requested that the Kottarakara *pakuthi* which was now under the jurisdiction of the Parur Stationary Magistrate might be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Quilon Stationary Magistrate, the said *pakuthi* being nearer to Kottarakara than to Parur.

The Member also drew the attention of the Government to the following proved agricultural needs of the taluk.

(1) The southern and western outlets of the Kuntuman *chira* at Ithikkar will nallur should be provided with culverts and sluices, so that the water of might be utilised for irrigating the adjoining fields.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(2) The breaches at Cheekkal and other places on the banks of the Kallada river should be repaired and possible danger to paddy cultivation averted.

(3) A canal should be opened from above the Plakkattu bridge to join the Tazhuttala canal. A sluice should also be put up near the bridge in the interests of cultivation.

(4) A tunnel should be bored through the Paricheri hill near Koduvila, so that the flood-water in the Kallada river might be easily drawn off to the Ashtamudi lake.

(5) Arrangements should be made for the utilisation of the water in the Chittumala *chira* for irrigating the fields lower down that *chira*.

(6) An agricultural school should be opened at Quilon.

(7) An English Middle School for girls was a great necessity for Quilon in view of the growing desire of the people for English education and of the increasing importance of the town.

(8) The creation of a Board to afford the necessary help to satisfy local needs as regards the spread of education and promotion of agriculture was also a necessity.

(9) The appointment of an itinerant instructor to teach spinning and weaving so that they might be taken up as cottage industries by the people was also advocated.

Dewan's reply.—Local needs will receive attention.

In regard to the Ayurvedic Patasala, I have already replied to another member that I will ask the Director of Ayurveda to submit a report about the establishment of one or more Ayurvedic schools outside Trivandrum.

The question of having a Tamil school at Quilon will also be enquired into.

In regard to roads, they also come under the local needs referred to by the other Member.

As regards the transfer of the Police station, the Police Commissioner will be requested to see whether the taluk station could not be removed to some place outside the town limits.

With regard to the suggestion about the jurisdiction of the Parur Magistrate, the Distriat Magistrate says that it will still further reduce the file of the Parur Stationary Magistrate. There is a proposal to close that court for want of cases, and that proposal is under the consideration of Government. This matter must wait until that is settled.

In regard to the opening of an agricultural school at Quilon, the claims of Quilon will be considered.

As regards a floating bridge across the Ashtamudi lake, I do not think it is as cheap a proposition as you imagine. If you have simply to tie together a number of boats and to fix their extremities to the land on either side, then that would be very cheap. Then you can have two lines of boats tied together like that. But we have to provide for the egress and ingress of boats sailing in the backwater. There must be provision for that also and that makes the idea of a string of boats unsuitable. Anyhow, the Chief Engineer will look into it.

You want an English Middle School for girls to be established in Quilon. The policy of Government is not to increase departmental secondary schools either for boys or for girls. Government would be willing to give help under the provisions of the Education Code, if aided schools are started. If the people of Quilon would start an aided school, then the Government would render the necessary help by way of building and other grants.

Mr. C. Raman Pillai.—The site I mentioned belongs to the Government.

Dewan.—The site also could be given under the rules for alienating land for public purposes. A body of people must come forward, construct the building, and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

start the institution. Then they can receive all the grants for which they are eligible.

As regards the boards you want, apparently you want taluk boards to look after matters connected with industry and other matters conducive to the development of your taluk.

Mr. C. Raman Pillai.—They will be very useful even after the passing of the Village Panchayat Regulation.

Dewan.—They might be useful. But you cannot have a separate board for each and every matter. We have to consider the undesirabilty of multiplying such boards. We will have to find funds for carrying on the work of these boards and the larger their number the greater is the expenditure in the shape of clerical establishment, etc.

Mr. C. Raman Pillai.—We are prepared to give all manner of help so far as the clerical establishment is concerned.

Dewan.—You want local boards in which local opinion will be reflected and in which people can have a dominating voice in looking after all matters relating to local needs. In the Village Panchayat Bill provision is made for the co-ordination of Panchayats. You can have one Panchayat for each *pakuthi*. All these Panchayats can join together and co-ordinate in order to look after matters common to all *pakuthies*.

Mr. C. Raman Pillai.—We will offer all manner of services. The local officers are doing nothing. Public lectures should be delivered in various parts of the country.

Dewan.—I quite realise the necessity for propaganda work.

Mr. C. Raman Pillai.—People should go about from place to place and deliver lectures.

Dewan.—Certainly, if the Panchayats come into existence they may be empowered to exercise supervision over such people.

In regard to Irrigation Boards also, when Village Panchayats come into existence, there may be no need to have a separate Irrigation Board. There is no quarrel between us in regard to the necessity or desirability of having these boards.

Mr. C. Raman Pillai.—Under the Village Panchayat Bill definite functions are assigned to these boards.

Dewan.—But there is no limit to those functions. The rules will be very elastic. The boards can undertake all functions which are conducive to the promotion of public welfare. When these non-official committees are created, you may consider the question whether they should not be entrusted with all or any of such functions. All these are mentioned in the draft Panchayat Bill.

You said that an officer should be deputed for teaching spinning and weaving in cottages. We have already an officer to do this. We have a Weaving school at Nagercoil. We are going to have more schools by and by. We are going to have a bigger Weaving school at Trivandrum very soon. To have a teacher for each taluk means 30 men. There is one man now under the supervision the Textile Expert. You want the same man to run a school and also to go about. If he begins to run a school, he becomes a stationary instructor.

Mr. C. Raman Pillai.—He can conduct the school for three days in the week and go about for the rest of the week.

Dewan.—Who will look after the school in his absence? That would not be an economical or a proper arrangement. The students will be sleeping or up to mischief. A peripatetic instructor has to go about from place to place to teach improved methods of weaving and spinning and to sell spare parts of improved machinery. If you want him to run a school, this cannot be done.

As regards the Vatta *kayal*, it is a local matter. The Dewan Peishkar will deal with it.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly